

I am hard of hearing. I survived Hurricane Charley on Friday, Aug. 13-04. but during this dreadful storm when I was depending on ongoing captioned updates re/what to expect and when to expect it/whether to evacuate/which shelters still had room/ where they were located, etc., there was NO local captioned TV channel news.

The National Weather Channel captioning was ongoing but provided NO local details. A moving ribbon of words on the bottom of the TV screen was repetitive and offered no current safety instruction related immediate advice. The local news channel crews spoke continuously but not one word was captioned. Picture yourselves in this situation, wondering what your expert local emergency director was advising and, not being able to hear one word. Captions should have been available and would have been if the FCC had already ruled that all local weather alerts MUST BE CAPTIONED.

This ruling should cover all environmental dangers - forest fires, storm surges, tornados, etc. It is urgent that ALL local news provider'channels are mandated by FCC ruling to plan ahead for captioning all potential life saving advice. IT can be done; it must be done before more hard of hearing and Deaf people's lives are threatened by nation's disasters.

I hope that you are caring people who will not heistate to mandate captions for all emergency situations. Thank you, Joan in Punta Gorda